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CHRONO
19 Apr 84

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence

EXTENSION

NO.

DDI-02390/84

DATE

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

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COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. DDI Registry
Rm 7E47 Hqs.

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NOTE FOR : Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence

FROM : 
Chief, Collection Requirements
and Evaluation Staff

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SUBJECT : CIPC "Critical Intelligence Needs"

Attached for your signature is an IPC/CRES coordinated response to the ExDir on the CIPC "Critical Intelligence Needs" memo. The CIPC staff prepared the list based on "wish list" inputs from some community agencies, and it is of no value in the CIPC context. Discussions with DIA, Air Force, and State officers confirmed our view that the list contains some but not all important topics and needs extensive paring down prior to CIPC consideration. To date the CIPC has sponsored six studies--China, Narcotics, Terrorism, Soviet ABMs, Cruise Missiles, and BW/CW; we are by no means convinced that the CIPC should undertake any other studies.

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

Executive Director

FROM : Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Critical Intelligence Needs

REFERENCE : Executive Director Memorandum, Same Subject,
dated 10 April 1984

1. We have reviewed the CIPC staff-prepared list of "critical intelligence needs" and found it to be of little use in the CIPC study context. It is not a Community statement of highly critical intelligence needs in response to a request from the DCI; it is only a compilation of disparate inputs from some elements of the Community -- in essence, a shopping list of important topics for the Community to be addressing. The list is not comprehensive, and the topics listed vary substantially in terms of scope and importance.

2. We are concerned about the potential number of CIPC studies that could result from such an approach to identify highly critical intelligence needs. There will be, in our view, an adverse impact on the Community of increasing the number of topics which are not really "critical intelligence problems." There are high costs in supporting CIPC studies, which take analysts and other specialists away from their primary duties -- frequently for long periods. Furthermore, each study makes resource recommendations -- analytic and collection. If numerous topics are tagged "critical," and recommendations made, then there will be no practical sense of real priorities.

3. Accordingly, we do not believe it appropriate for the CIPC principals to attempt to review the CIPC staff's list at the 23 April meeting. Rather, we suggest that the list be remanded to

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SUBJECT: Critical Intelligence Needs

the CIPC staff for complete revision so that it contains those few "critical intelligence problems" -- perhaps no more than 10 -- which could be considered as candidate topics for CIPC study. After that step is completed, the CIPC could then determine which topics should be submitted to the DCI and DDCI for their consideration. This process should produce no more than one or two topics that are critical and warrant CIPC attention.

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Robert M. Gates


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SUBJECT: Critical Intelligence Needs

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- 1 - Addressee [redacted]
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DI/CRES/RSG [redacted] (18 April 1984)

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